

**Town of Lincoln**

**Budget Board Meeting**

**March 18, 2010**

**Present:**

**Linda Noble Cheryl Ethier Claudette Lussier Carl Brunetti Sheila Chisholm**

**Jay O'Grady Bob Ericson Hagop Jawharjian Greg Leonard**

**Absent:**

**Joe Renning**

**Call To Order**

**The meeting began at 7:35 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Claudette Lussier, to amend the agenda so that Minutes, Correspondence, and Public Comment were after discussion of the Town Administrator's Recommended budget.**

**Town Administrator's 2010-2011 Recommended Budget**

**The Town Administrator and Municipal Finance Director were present to discuss the recommended budget.**

**Revenue questions were discussed.**

**It was noted that Video Lottery Revenues do not come on a regular**

**schedule, so the mid-year figures cannot be relied upon to estimate the income for the entire year.**

**Also, it is uncertain if Twin River declares bankruptcy whether the state will do, making it an unreliable revenue.**

**In Property Tax Revenues, the amount of taxable properties has increased, however the assessments have been lowered due to reevaluation.**

**The Meal Tax Revenue estimates come from the state and should be accurate.**

**For School Medicaid Revenues, there is an estimate provided by a consultant, which has been consistently underestimated.**

**It was noted that these reimbursements are generally received a quarter or so after the costs that generated them are incurred.**

**The new Chart of Accounts makes it necessary to chart all revenues, and things like rental of space should be charted separately and not netted.**

**Interest on delinquent taxes is dropping because there has been an aggressive attempt at collection.**

**They have used a collections attorney for tangible and motor vehicle taxes, but not for real estate taxes or sewer fees.**

**The Town has changed its structure by having less Secretary**

**positions and having more Clerks and Senior Clerks.**

**Some Clerks have the ability to move between departments as needed.**

**For the software upgrade, the Town is working with other RI cities and towns who use the programs to get a better deal.**

**Also, the schools currently use the same software system as the Town, but they do not integrate them.**

**In discussing Police Cars, It was noted that the fleet is generally kept a little big larger than needed so that the cars get occasional rest of not being on the road.**

**One of the new vehicles would be an unmarked police car.**

**Last year, some old cars were auctioned off, for an average of \$1,000 each.**

**The Police Pensions lost a lot of funds in the market crash in 2008.**

**The Police contract expires next July.**

**Having Police Details as a separate enterprise fund was discussed, as was having an umbrella insurance policy for when employees working on police detail are injured.**

**In discussion of Animal Control, it was noted that there will be a Personnel Hearing in April regarding the former Animal Control Officer.**

**The Town is looking at either regionalization or privatization of the facilities.**

**The Budget Board wanted to include the Animal Shelter when they take a tour of the Town's facilities.**

**The Literacy Center will have its grand opening on April 10th, and will have new policy and longer hours.**

**The Budget Board would also like to tour the new facilities of the Literacy Center.**

**The Municipal Budget had decreased by 6 FTE's in a 3-year period. It was noted that two positions are still vacant, and that the positions that exist have become more flexible and non-restrictive.**

**Road Paving under Central Services was questioned, and whether the town just patches areas or just repaves whenever needed.**

**The Budget Board discussed the outsourcing of trash collection, and that the current cycle is a 4-day cycle with appliance and yard waste pickups separately.**

**The server updates are needed because they are extremely outdated.**

**Manton and Barney Pond Dams were discussed.**

**Currently, the engineering first phase of Manton Dam is complete.**

**Last year, the goal was to get work on Barney Pond Dam done, but**

that had to be put aside so Manton Dam, which was a larger issue, could be addressed.

There is a Capital Development Committee that decides on all capital projects and plans.

The Schools had requested a study of the High School campus facilities, but it was noted that one had just been completed 4 years ago.

The Budget Board would like a copy of the resolutions that the Town Administrator will submit to the Financial Town Meeting.

Additionally, by Charter, the budget presented at the Financial Town Meeting should include information from the Water Department.

It was noted that there is \$125,000 requested in capital improvements for the paving of the parking lot at the High School.

Linda Noble noted that the schools have painting requested in their capital improvements, and wondered if that would be reimbursable.

John Ward, the Finance Director, noted that the RI Department of Education would be the determinant of whether it would be reimbursable as capital.

Carl Brunetti questioned how the Senior Tax Credit would affect the budget.

**The Finance Director indicated that it would not be significant, and that it would have to be passed by the General Assembly.**

**The Budget Board took a short recess and then reconvened.**

### **Minutes**

**The minutes of March 10th and March 11th were distributed for review.**

**Hagop Jawharjian made a motion, seconded by Greg Leonard, to approve the minutes of March 10th.**

**The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.**

**Claudette Lussier made a motion, seconded by Greg Leonard, to approve the minutes of March 11th.**

**The minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0 with Cheryl Ethier abstaining because she was not present on March 11th.**

### **Correspondence**

**Correspondence was received from Bill McManus, former State Representative, regarding support of the level-funding of the schools.**

### **Public Comment**

**There was none at the time.**

### **Old Business**

## **School Committee 2010-2011 Recommended Budget/School Capital HIGH SCHOOL**

The connector area work seemed to be only for aesthetic and continuity purposes, with the exception of the lighting which is an energy savings issue.

The Budget Board agreed to the lighting and ceiling replacement as a recommendation, as well as fixing the leak in the nurse's office, safety concerns in the Industrial Arts area, Boys Locker room floor replacement, Gym interior door for security purposes, and Public Lav upgrades including energy efficient fixtures.

## **NORTHERN ELEMENTARY**

The Budget Board agreed to the painting of hallways, paving, rear door construction, and bathroom upgrades.

When they toured the schools, they did not believe the painting was necessary and the carpeting did not seem to be a safety issue, so they will ask about these items.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The Budget Board agreed to exterior lighting because it is a safety and security issue, and also installation of an ADA access ramp and rails because it was a code issue.

## **CENTRAL**

The Budget Board agreed to the paving of the driveway area and upgrades of the playground for incoming Early Learning classes.

**They also agreed to bathroom modifications that were necessary for the incoming classes, and fencing that could be a liability.**

**The Budget Board was uncertain about sound battening in the gym area.**

## **LONSDALE**

**The Budget Board agreed to the recommendation of sink demo and replacement, bookcase demo, and playground upgrades as these were all part of including Early Learning once Fairlawn closes.**

**They also agreed with lav upgrades but wondered if it would cost \$20,000 which was requested.**

**The Budget Board disagreed with items that were for aesthetic purposes, such as painting and carpeting, and lighting and ceiling replacement in the lavs that was not hazardous, and also disagreed with installing whiteboards.**

## **SAYLESVILLE**

**The Budget Board agreed to the recommendation of Playground Upgrades, and Heating/AC for office ventilation.**

**They disagreed, however, with replacement of carpeting or painting because it was for aesthetic and uniformity purposes and not because of any health or safety issues.**

## **ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**The Budget Board agreed with recommending the replacement of the fencing because it was a safety and structural issue.**



## **GROUND**

**The request was for \$42,000 for two new vehicles, but it was noted that it would only cost \$25,000 to replace the bodies only on the existing vehicles.**

**The Budget Board discussed possibly recommending \$25,000 for one new vehicle or the bodies.**

## **New Business**

### **June 30, 2009 Audit and Management Letter**

**The audit and management letter were discussed.**

**There was an 8% surplus, or \$5.6 million.**

**The Budget Board wanted to discuss Town Investments with the Town Administrator because it seems there is no formal investment policy or strategy.**

**The Town's Pensions are funded at 89.6% and the Auditors recommended 104%.**

**The Police and Fire Pensions are funded at approximately 70%.**

**The Budget Board discussed making police detail revenue and expenses more transparent.**

## **Other**

**The meeting of Wednesday, March 24th was cancelled.**

## **Public Comment**

**There was no public comment at the time.**

## **Adjourn**

**Carl Brunetti made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg Leonard.**

**The meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.**